



2171#3/A  
11-4401  
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Our Docket No.: B588-020

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Takuya Kotani  
Serial No. : 09/867,737  
For : INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS  
Filed : May 30, 2001  
Art Unit : 2171  
Examiner : Unassigned

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 1, line 8 and ending at page 1, line 11 as follows:

The present invention relates to management of metadata to be attached to binary data, and more particularly, to an information processing method and apparatus which enable high-speed access to metadata.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 1, line 14 and ending at page 2, line 24 as follows:

Metadata is "data on data" used as explanation of binary data such as image data and sound data. A search for image data, sound data and the like can be made by metadata set for respective binary data. Now the usefulness of the metadata is widely known. Various forms of metadata are prepared for binary data, and attempts to utilize them in searching are made by using a database.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

August 20, 2001

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Date of Signature

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Signature

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Cm.t